(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Technological obsolescence, collapse of demand in CIS and other East European countries, synthetic substitutes and the operational problems faced by MITCO before its merger with MMTC resulted in the decline of exports of mica and mica products.

(d) Government formulates commodity-wise export strategies having regard to products and markets in concert with the concerned export promotion councils. Due input and promotional support is thus extended to the Mica and Mica Paper Industry towards boosting exports.

STATEMENT

Production and export of Mica and Mica Paper

Unit : MT

Year	*Production in India (Crude & Waste)**	*Mica Paper***
1991-92	5957	79.00
1992-93	3997 (P)	77.00
1993-94	3113 (P)	123.00
1994-95	N.A.	107.00
1995-96	N.A.	85.00

* Source : IBM Nagpur

** Production of Mica Division of MMTC (Formerly MITCO)

Total quantity exported and foreign exchange earned

Year	*Quantity (in MT)*	*Value* (in Rs. Lakhs)
1992-93	29930	4168
1993-94	33899	4332
1994-95	33116	4397
1995-96	7443	1181

Source : MMTC Limited

Credit in Foreign Currency Scheme for Jewellers

5756. DR. RAMAKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has withdrawn concessional rates of interest for post-shipment finance and abolished the post-shipment credit in foreign currency scheme in regard to the gems and jewellery exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the RBI/Government have received representations from the gems and jewellery exporters in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of RBI/Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that effective from February 8, 1996, interest rate on post-shipment export rupee credit for a period beyond 90 days and upto six months from the date of shipment has been freed and banks are allowed to determine the rate of interest on such credit on their own. The interest rate on post shipment credit upto 90 days continues to be 13% per annum. The scheme of post-shipment export credit denominated in US Dollars (PSCFC) was terminated with effect from February 8, 1996 as in the context of the sizeable forward exchange premia, the effective rate of interest on this facility had become negative and was discouraging normal repatriation of export proceeds. These were general policy changes and not restricted to any specific commodities like gems and jewellery.

(c) and (d). RBI had received representations from the Geme and Jewellery Export Promotion Council in February and March 1996 *inter alia*, regarding interest rate on PSCFC. The rationale of the measures has been explained to the Council by the RBI.

Non-Conventional and Non-Polluting Industries

5757. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce non-conventional and non-polluting Industries in Agra in view of the industrial vacum being created after the Judgement of the Supreme Court to close down polluting industries including brick and kiln industry;

(b) if so, the action initiated by the Union Government so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Any non-polluting industry that has to be set up by private entrepreneurs in Agra will have to be set up by them in accordance with law and subject to necessary permission from the Pollution Control Boards and the observations and directions/orders of the Supreme Court. Entrepreneurs are free to take investment decisions and implement them within the parameters indicated above.

Foreign Owned Mutual Funds

5758. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of foreign-owned mutual funds that have set up business in India and the number of Indian partners amongst them;

(b) the total amount of money mobilised by these funds;

(c) whether any complaints against the functioning of these funds have been received; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) According to the information furnished by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), 14 Mutual Funds with Asset Management Companies (AMCs) having participation of Foreign Financial Institutions have been registered with SEBI under the (Mutual Funds) Regiulations, 1993.

(b) As on 1.9.96 these mutual funds have mobilised Rs. 4146 crores.

(c) and (d). All mutual funds are regulated under the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1993. S appropriate action in all cases of violation of the provisions of the Mutual Funds Regulations.

[Translation]

Irregularities in NTC Mills of Gujarat

5759. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the names and the location of National Textile Corporation Mills in Gujarat particularly in tribal concentrated areas as on date;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the unrest, mismanagement and irregularities prevailing in National Textile Corporation Mills in Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the plan of the Government to implement the declared schemes of making the workers self-reliance for voluntary retirement and giving assistance from National Renewal Fund for development of National Textile Corporation mills in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The names and location of the 11 mills under NTC (Gujarat) Ltd. are as follows :

S.No.	Name of the Mills	Location
1.	Ahmedabad Jupiter Textile Mills	Ahmedabad
2.	Ahmedabad New Textile Mills.	Ahmedabad
3.	Himadri Textile Mills	Ahmedabad
4.	Jehangir Textile Mills	Ahmedabad
5.	New Manekchowk Textile Mills	Ahmedabad
6.	Rajnagar Textile Mills No. 1	Ahmedabad
7.	Rajnagar Textile Mills No. 2	Ahmedabad
8.	Mahalaxmi Textile Mills	Bhavnagar
9.	Petlad Textile Mills	Petlad
10.	Rajkot Textile Mills	Rajkot
11.	Viramgam Textile Mills	Viramgam

There are no mills in the tribal concentrated areas.

(b) and (c). The complaints received in the past have been in investigated and found to be unsubstantiated in most of the cases. However, a few allegations invclving medical claim, lignite transporation and purchase of inferior dyes and chemicals etc., were investigated by CBI which recommended prosecution of the accused persons. These cases are subjudice in the Courts of Ahmedabad. Complaints received from time to time are enquired into for taking necessary action.

(d) The revised Turn Around Plan approved for NIC (Gujarat) Ltd. envisages, *inter alia*, rationalisation of surplus work force through Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Government have formulated a scheme for rehabilitation of workers rationalised under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Under the scheme, the workers can start their own project by purchasing old looms from NTC at a nominal price or can purchase new power looms/reeling machines from machinery manufactures. The requisite finance is available from the banks. The company would also provide production incentive in such ventures after successful operation for six months from the date of commissioning. As on 30.6.96, 1715 looms have been delivered to 419 workers who opted for the scheme.

Further each NTC Mill in Gujarat has established Employees' Resource Centre (ERC) with Labour Welfare Officer as incharge. This centre helps the employees opting for VRS by suggesting suitable methods for achieving self reliance by the workers. Gandhi Labour Institute at Ahmedabad has been declared as a Nodal Agency by the Government under National Renewal Fund.

Foreign aid for the Development Projects

5760. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to give to the States the entire amount of foreign assistance received for the development of various projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total foreign assistance provided during each of the last three years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE OF (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). External assistance received by Government of India against expenditure incurred by the States towards the externally aided projects, is passed on to the States in the form of Additional Central Assistance